

## MOBILE HARBOR, ALABAMA

### CONDITION OF IMPROVEMENT ON 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

*Existing Project:* The authorized project provides for (a) A 42-foot by 600-foot channel about 1.5 miles long across Mobile Bar; (b) a 40-foot by 400-foot channel in Mobile Bay to mouth of Mobile River; (c) a 40-foot channel in Mobile River to highway bridge, varying from 500 to 775 feet wide; (d) a 25-foot channel from highway bridge to and up Chickasaw Creek to a point 400 feet south of mouth of Shell Bayou, widths being 500 feet in Mobile River and 250 feet in Chickasaw Creek; (e) a turning basin 40 feet deep, 2,500 feet long, and 800 to 1,000 feet wide, opposite Alabama State Docks; (f) a turning basin 40 feet deep, 1,000 feet wide, and 1,600 feet long opposite Magazine Point; (g) a 27-foot by 150-foot channel from Mobile Bay Channel along Arlington pier to a turning basin 800 feet long and 600 feet wide opposite Brookley Complex ocean terminal, and continuing thence to a turning basin 250 feet wide and 800 feet long in Garrows Bend, thence a 22-foot by 150-foot channel to the causeway linking McDuffie Island to the mainland; (h) a channel serving the Theodore Industrial Park 40 feet deep and 400 feet wide from the main ship channel in Mobile Bay and extending northwesterly for about 5.3 miles to the shore of Mobile Bay, including an anchorage basin near the shoreline, thence a land cut 40 feet deep, 300 feet wide and 1.9 miles long to and including a 42 acre trapezoid turning basin 40 feet deep, and a barge channel 12-by 100-feet, extending 6500 feet and terminating in a 300-by 300-foot turning basin; and (i) maintenance of Three Mile Creek by snagging, from its intersection with Industrial Canal to Mobile River. The project provides also for an anchorage area 32 feet deep, 100 feet wide, and 2,000 feet long opposite site formerly occupied by the U.S. Quarantine Station at McDuffie (Sand) Island. Prior to widening the Mobile Bay Channel as authorized in 1954, the Quarantine Station anchorage area was maintained to a project width of 200 feet. Construction by local interests of a solid-fill causeway across Garrows Bend Channel between McDuffie Island and the mainland is also provided for under existing project. Total length of the bay and river channels is about 41.7 miles. Plane of reference is mean low water. Further authorization provides for future development to deepen and widen entrance channel over the bar to 57 feet by 700 feet about 7.4 miles long, deepen and widen bay channel to 55 feet by 550 feet about 27.0 miles long, deepen and widen an additional 3.6 miles of bay channel to 55 feet by 650 feet and provide 55 foot deep anchorage area and turning basin in vicinity of Little Sand Island. All dredged material will be placed in an approved disposal area in the Gulf of Mexico. Although the authorized project is for the construction of a 55 foot by 550 foot channel, the current Phase I plan of improvement consists of deepening the entrance channel from 42 feet to 47 feet for a distance of 6.1 miles from the Gulf of Mexico to Mobile Bay; and deepening the bay channel from 40 feet to 45 feet from the mouth of the bay north for a distance of 31.2 miles to the McDuffie Coal Terminal.

The existing project was authorized by Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 3 September 1954 (H. Doc. 74, 83rd Congress, First Session, as amended, and previous acts). (See page R25-2 for data on Theodore Channel authorization).

*Progress:* Existing project was commenced in 1931 and completed in September 1981. Phase I was completed in June 1990.

*Cost of Construction:* \$96,317,182 (includes \$6,683,104 for previous projects, \$14,000 for Public Works Funds, \$41,242 for Emergency Relief funds, and \$53,561,795 for Theodore Ship Channel. (Excludes \$18,506,150 contributed funds).

*Tidal Range:* Mean 1.2 feet to 1.5 feet; extreme, 3.4 feet to 3.6 feet.

*Controlling Depth:* Maintained to authorized depths: As of 1 June 1990: Outer Bar Channel, 47.0 feet; Bay Channel, 45.0 feet; Chickasaw Creek Channel, 25.0 feet; Arlington Channel, 27.0 feet; Turning Basin to Highway Bridge, 40.0 feet. (See page R25-2 for Theodore Channel.)

*Local Sponsor:* Alabama State Docks Department.